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# Bulletin

of the



## LOUISIANA

## LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

15, No. 1

Winter, 1952

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GENERAL LIBRARY

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# THE BULLETIN

of the

## LOUISIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 15

NUMBER 1

### CONTENTS FOR WINTER

The Editor's First Word .....	2
Our President Speaks .....	Evelyn Peters 2
Shreve Memorial Library Branch Libraries .....	Bess Vaughan 3
General Library, University of Mississippi .....	J. S. Hartin 5
Vermilion Parish Memorial Library Building .....	Cleo Songy 8
Twelve Years in a Library Building .....	Mrs. Ernest A. Gueymard 10
Mississippi State College Library .....	Donald E. Thompson 13
The Carver Branch, Ouachita Parish .....	Frances Flanders 14
Modern or Provincial .....	Nelle C. Davidson 16
The Book Festival .....	N. M. Gittinger 18
Librarian for a Day .....	Donna Derbes 19
Book Review .....	Mary Louise Marshall 19
Modisette Award .....	N. M. Gittinger 20
Random Notes .....	Walter Goldstein 21
President's Report 1951 .....	Frances Vivian Flanders 22
Treasurer's Report 1951 .....	Ruth Walling, Treas. 28
People and Places .....	Mattie Sue Mounce 30
LLA Convention .....	32

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# The Editor's First Word

Dr. Margaret Herdman, the retiring Editor, entitled her valedictory, "The Editor's Last Word." My first one is to commend her work, and to express to her our appreciation of her six years of faithful and capable service. We believe that the *Bulletin* is a distinct credit to the Association—and to the profession. It must be continued. It is my task—and privilege—to do so for one year. I shall need the help and cooperation of every member of the Association during this endeavor.

Many of you already know that plans have been laid to use a part of each subsequent issue for the next year or two to record a history of libraries in Louisiana. Most of you will be asked to participate in some phase of this project.

Another feature which we hope to add is a section for letters to the Editor. So beginning immediately, we invite you to write us regularly and eloquently, and to agree or disagree with our contributors or your Editorial Board.

The *Bulletin* belongs to you—why not use it to air your enthusiasms, your criticisms, and your suggestions!

This particular issue has been planned to help those many librarians faced with a building program. It provides post-mortems on several of the new buildings described in the issue of January 1949, as well as descriptions of some of the interesting new buildings in our region.

JOHN HALL JACOBS

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Mr. Dean Pierce of Siler's Incorporated, New Orleans, is arranging to have reprints made of the list of "One Hundred Best Books" which appeared in the last issue of the *Bulletin*. Copies for distribution to your patrons may be obtained at cost by those libraries requesting them. To assure requirements being filled from first printing, send orders directly to Siler's, 333 St. Charles Street, New Orleans, not later than February 25.

## Our President Speaks

EVELYN PETERS

Like librarians throughout the nation, we in Louisiana have been concerned with promoting the theme of the American Library Association 75th Anniversary—"The Heritage of America in Times of Crisis." As we organize our programs, our communities, and our institutions to take part in this observance, we as individuals and as librarians are learning about ourselves and our profession as well as about our relationships to our nation. As your Louisiana Library Association President, may I take this occasion to share with you some of the ideas which have suggested themselves to me as I have considered our future?

First, it seems to me we are finding that

as librarians we have a unique relationship to this Heritage of America. In a certain sense, we are the custodians of that Heritage, preserved as it is in the books upon the shelves of our libraries. We have at our fingertips the ideas and ideals of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. When we mobilize our resources as we have been doing—and as I hope we shall continue to do—we are also the popularizers of that Heritage, encouraging our fellow citizens to inquire what it is and wherein lies its greatness. And at the same time, it appears to me that we are also—by the very fact that we are librarians and are doing the job

—making a contribution to our own times which may in turn become a part of an even richer American Heritage.

I believe that librarians, with this proud heritage and great opportunity, are conscious as never before of their unique contribution—real and potential—to the life of our nation. And in our gatherings together, does this not suggest a common bond for all of us, a common aspiration for librarians and librarianship? Consciously or not, we are reevaluating ourselves and our tasks in the light of the great responsibilities which are ours, finding here cause for comfort, there reason for alarm. Out of this there arises in the minds of many this feeling: just as books are important only because of the dynamic qualities found between two covers of paper and buckram, so librarians are important not only because they dispense books to others, but also because they themselves have some

of the same qualities of heart and mind and spirit.

Ours is a service first to individuals, second to institutions. We are individuals first, librarians second. Let's keep it that way. Just as the person with the greatest breadth of sympathy and enthusiasm does the best job, let us mobilize our selves, our talents, our qualities of mind and spirit for the high calling—that of serving people. Let us use the techniques and gadgets of our profession, and the potentials of our own Louisiana Library Association, so that they become not ends in themselves, but ways of most effectively accomplishing our objective—the greatest good to the greatest number. And let us now resolve together to make of our time a period when men and women dedicated to the task of enriching the Heritage of America will turn to librarians as their advisors, leaders, and friends.

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## Shreve Memorial Library Branch Libraries

BESS VAUGHAN, *Librarian*  
Shreve Memorial Library

So, the light company won't turn on the juice! The company isn't particularly enthusiastic about the location of the meter in the ladies' wash room—neither are you, when you stop to think about it.

Here you are, ready to have the floors waxed and polished tonight so that the moving-in process may begin tomorrow. At this point everything must go according to schedule if you are to meet next week's opening date for that new branch library—but there is no electricity! You beg, you plead, and you use your most persuasive powers, but the light company is adamant—no meters in ladies' wash rooms! You call the architect, you call the contractor, you call the electrician, you call the city inspector, AND you

call the light company. You do this at regular half-hour intervals for two days. Finally at ten minutes past five o'clock of the second day, the light company calls YOU—the meter has been moved and the juice is on!

All this fuss and bother because you couldn't read the blue-prints properly!

This reminds you of that other fumble you made with the same blue-prints. How were you to know that those innocent looking windows under which you planned to place a window seat, were four one-light, bottom hinged, in-swinging sashes rather than the old-fashioned double-hung sashes which you had in mind? This one, too, you discover after the deed is done—and far too expensive to change.

At a later date, with another architect you try that idea in reverse, placing an out-swinging window at floor level. To your dismay, you find that to be an error also, for boys will be boys, and putty is something primarily intended to be dug out under the cover of night.

Plate glass and playgrounds are an enticingly irresistible combination—to little boys with B-B guns. You have your suspicions about this and mention them with a certain amount of firmness to the architect, but he likes plate glass. Besides, war has just begun in Korea, so your objections get lost in the rush to plan and construct the building before spiraling prices cut you out of the running altogether. By the time you move into this new and modernistic branch library, the plate glass has a permanent case of small-pox. Incidentally, plate glass reduces the wall space available for book shelves, but architects working under pressure are unimpressed by little items like that.

You build five small branch library buildings in the same number of years and because your finances can't possibly stretch to the point of property purchase, you resort to expediency. By special permission of an agreeable and accommodating School Board, four of your buildings are placed on school grounds. This is fine in all cases except one—but that ONE! It is on a crowded school ground and the only space available for you is a low spot in a far corner where the ground slopes downward from above and below an open drain. Having no choice, you take the site with great misgivings, and sure enough, when a heavy thunder shower comes along you find yourself with more modern conveniences than you care for—hot and cold running water through your front door!

For your five buildings you use three different architects (appointed by the City Council) but you come up with three sets of plans which are not too dissimilar. In each there is one fairly large rectangular room with a staff office and lavatory occupying space adjacent to a small entrance porch. There are no public lavatories because the schools are next door to four of your

branches, and the playground shelter provides these facilities at the site of the fifth. Attic fans are used for ventilation in summer, and high, single sash, in-swinging windows above the book shelves take care of the situation in winter. Gas-fired unit heaters, set within the walls adjoining the office, force adequate heat through vents into the office and the large outer room when winter comes.

The floors are concrete slabs finished with asphalt tile in colors complementary to the walls which are done, for the most part, in pastel shades—blue, green, gray, yellow, and a combination of chartreuse and Chinese red for the Negro branch. The light fixtures are fluorescent and you find the up-keep rather expensive when five or six of the tubes burn out at the same time.

One of your branches is built of tile block with weather-proof paint coating the exterior and interior; three are of brick veneer with sheetrock finished interior; and the fifth is a combination of solid brick, plate glass, and wood, with plaster-board walls and exposed brick interior. You find the brick veneer the most satisfactory type of construction.

At this point you sharpen your pencil and struggle with costs which you find have varied according to the years and the then current scales for labor and construction materials. The first branch, built of tile block in 1948 with an area of 864 sq. ft., cost \$7.65 per sq. ft., and 78c per cu. ft. The next three, built on approximately the same plan in 1948, 1949, and 1950, with an area of 894 sq. ft., cost \$9.10 and 78c, \$9.60 and 81c, \$10.50 and 89c, respectively. The fifth building with an area of 1,020 sq. ft., built in 1950, cost \$10.14 per sq. ft., and 89c per cu. ft. Architects' fees, 6% of the contractors bid, are figured in the cost. The overall prices ranged from \$7,025.50 in 1948, to \$10,350.00 in 1950.

It's done now. You sit back and think—in five years' time you spent \$43,478.50 of the tax-payers' money for five little penny match boxes—an average of \$8,695.70 per building. Were you justified? You ask



yourself some more questions, and then you answer yourself back.

Shreveport is a city whose population is in a state of flux, she's like a growing girl—the shoes you bought for her on Monday will be too small come Sunday. In two weeks time she will want high heels and a week later she will want her sloppy-joes again. Maybe some of your branches are too small even now, but if you can make-do with them for another five years or so—and it looks as though you may have to—over a ten year period you would have paid out an average of \$72.50 per month in the equivalent of rent. The space you now have couldn't possibly be rented at that low figure.

Suppose within another five years your

population would have moved to other residential areas, what then? You could sustain the minute loss without even looking back, for when your growing girl reaches maturity and settles down to adulthood, you will want other locations and more permanent buildings anyway. Your investment is small, your one large room could be converted to other use and an extra wing could be added to any one of the buildings if necessary.

In the meantime, you comfort yourself with the thought that you would have gotten your money's worth in use. In five years' time, 5,445 new patrons have boosted your annual circulation by 149,000 books. You can tell that to the tax-payers and relax. If you had it all to do over again, you would—without the errors, of course!

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## General Library, University of Mississippi

J. S. HARTIN, *Director of Libraries*

Mothers who have raised half a dozen or more children ought to be allowed to talk about how to raise children; mothers who have a single child should be forced to listen in respectful silence. The same thing is true with librarians; only those who have planned and seen erected several buildings should be allowed to talk about them. This would, of course, lead to a very desirable state of affairs. No one would talk about his own building. However, requested to say a word or two about the new Library of the University of Mississippi, I will gladly say a word or two. Whether those words will be well-chosen is something I cannot say. Everyone here is too close to the building and to unused to it yet to have a sage opinion.

But in the construction of the building, and in its planning, I (speaking for the whole constellation of people who had a hand in the job) have one or two things to say. These will be hints, intended for the planner instead of for the occupant, of things I have noticed. To a certain extent they are

shortcomings on our part, resulting from slips that pass on the blue-prints and slips in planning and underlining the fact that it is next to impossible to catch everything. This impossibility itself will lead to one hint, thus proving perhaps that these words are organic.

In the first place, nothing can replace a good planner. We had the services of Mr. Alfred Morton Githens, and may generations of college students yet unborn rise and call him blessed. From a prepared statement of needs and desirabilities submitted to him, he worked out a building. We found that we had no philosophy of the function of a library in a university community to ride, that we have no radical systems of students in relation to library materials, that we are rather a traditional minded campus, and that what we wanted was mainly a building to serve as many of the usual library functions as we can legitimately claim now and may claim in the predictable future. We got just that. We are extremely well-satisfied with

our internal relationships, with the provisions for public service, and with the general internal and external atmosphere. We are simple and love it.

Nevertheless, here and there one item after another appears on the list of things to be done a trifle differently in the next building. First, plate glass doors have a way of disappearing. I do not mean that we have theft (at least not of doors) but that our patrons are inclined to run into them. I am glad at least that our custodians keep the glass so clean that the finger prints are not visible. Next, about doors, be sure to have as many as possible double-acting; I refer to doors in passageways and corridors where visibility is unlimited, and with plate glass doors visibility should be no problem. On these same doors, be sure that the locks are keyed properly. About fifteen locks in our building are installed in such a way that the key-hole is on the wrong side. We have, for example, an enclosed stair accessible from all stack levels. The locks are so placed that we can control only the exit from the stacks, which is not what we want at all. This is probably an inexcusable oversight, but when doors and such were discussed, our main thought was to have relatively free access to books without actually having open stacks. We found about the one possible pitfall.

Light switches are another thing. The electrical engineer came around with a lot of convincing words and showed us that any library not equipped where feasible with magnetic contactors (I think) was strictly not in the running. So we got magnetic contactors, and we are for the time being stuck with them. The thing is, you punch a button and the whole room (usually a large room) bursts into a blaze of lights. (These may be fluorescent or incandescent, depending upon the desires of the planner; on second thought, a magnetic contactor may not be necessary for incandescent lighting.) Now this is all right if you want to have the whole room in a blaze of light. It sometimes happens that you want to light only a portion of the room. Fight your way out of that one, without going to the control panel (to which

the building engineer has the key and cannot be located—I will say that building engineers have a way of disappearing into a maze of machines, into which one hesitates to follow without possessing an engineering degree).

These lights we have (ours are fluorescent in all but the stack areas) have peculiar effects on wall colors. Be sure to consider what will happen to a light blue wall under so-called daylight tubing, and what effect you want to produce. We wanted to avoid strong or intense colors, thus running contrary to the scheme to have every library look like the inside of an English pea pod, and selected rather gentle colors, almost on the pastel side of the chart. The result is that when we have a repaint job, we shall intensify the wall colors to the next step on the color chart. Our idea was to have each room different without having contrast. I believe we were successful. The floor pattern (the floors are rubber tile principally, in twelve-inch squares, and asphalt tile of the same dimensions) is different in each room, and the colors vary to suit the feel of the walls. Using quite strong colors as accent in the floor pattern is a good idea, even though chairs and tables cover up much of the pattern. I say the feel of the walls because a wall may be one color and have the feel of another. Certain blues may dictate a shade of green as a floor accent, and so on. People who occupy certain rooms mainly should be consulted for color preference, and after choices have been indicated, the consultant can modify and unify, if possible (but I daresay he can't shake one worker's preference for pink or gray). If leather is used on chairs—we used leather on over half of our chairs—a lot can be done to brighten up a room, although I myself have not found that leather on a chair makes a student inhabit it rather than an unupholstered chair at a table. Another thing. Please don't assume that every student wants to sit at a table, even in those rooms which are traditionally table-and-chair rooms; not everyone wants to write, and not everyone even wants a table to hold up the book he is reading. This

actually led us to use a lot of leather. We wanted semi-lounge chairs, with leather; we saw that in quotations upholstered backs on chairs cost comparatively little more than plain backs and made the switch as far as our budget would let us. The result is very pleasing.

It is being felt more and more that a small auditorium or some such room is highly desirable in a university library. We agreed, but found that we could not afford one. The new Library at Mississippi State College has an excellent lecture room, and it should be examined by all interested. That library also has a good light-control system, about which I hope something is said by the Director of Libraries of that institution.

Here I want to back up, first to floor tiles. Every one of our rooms has either a black or a very dark brown border. This is a good thing, but it has disadvantages. In places where there is much traffic, the dark tile takes a beating as far as finish is concerned. Before the water fountains, for example, or at the charging desk, the tile becomes marred in a hurry. Steady waxing and polishing cannot remove the dusty look the dark tile has. So avoid it in such places. A dark border is not at all necessary, but in a large room, it has a way of defining a limit and circumscribing an area. And be sure to watch that the tile is laid to the wall in every place, or at least up to a permanent installation that is really permanent. We had occasion to move some shelving and found that the tile did not cover the floor beneath. This didn't stop us from moving the shelving, but it did leave a space to be retiled. Even so, a contractor should be required to leave a square or so of tile on the job, for emergencies.

The same thing is true of paint. Most paint is mixed, and it is practically impossible to remix paint to an exact color, even when known proportions of pigments are used. Scuffs and scratches are inevitable in the moving-in process, and if a building has had its final coat of paint, there you are. Our contractor promised quite faithfully to leave a jar or can of each paint used, but I haven't

been able to find them. I rather imagine, however, that a note to the contractor would bring an explanation.

This alteration and change brings up another thing. There should be, without fail, a cash reserve made for small alterations. The number of little things you want to change is amazing, but even little things cost money.

We have found that our intercommunications system is responsible for considerable savings in time and effort and speeds up service in innumerable ways. There is something slightly ludicrous about the system. It is powered by eight dry cells in the engine room, which itself is filled with a tremendous amount of clacking and rumbling and whirring machinery—eight tiny dry cells in the face of all that power. The engine room itself, it should be added, is in the basement and for the most part outside the building proper, under the front terrace so that noise and vibration are not a bother. Much of the air-conditioning apparatus is in the penthouse, where it is effectively isolated. Since most buildings in the general south are being air-conditioned, it might well be added that the air-conditioning engineer needs special warning if certain rooms are used as smoking rooms. Ordinary air-treatment will not keep the air fresh in such rooms, and it does not seem that the day has arrived when smoking is permitted freely in a library building.

Perhaps I have mentioned trifles, but those are the things you have to watch in your aim for perfection. We have not here reached perfection, but we have tried to do some things. We wanted the library to look like a library. (Innocent query: what does a library look like?) We wanted a building that would be a library. I believe we have it within the confines of the statements given to the planner. If librarians tell planners what they need and anticipate, there is no reason why any building should be a failure, and every reason why each building should be a tailor-made job. Each institution has its distinctive atmosphere and services along with the functions common to all libraries, and each set of plans should answer specific requirements, so successfully that the whole is

greater than the component parts, because to the plan has been added atmosphere conducive to study and investigation along with relaxation and a feeling of being at familiar terms with one of the most neglected spots, in the eyes of librarians and instructors, on every college campus.

P.S. I neglected to say anything about ornamentation. We did it in only one place, consonant with our desire to keep things simple. A great window opening on the east side of our building is ornamented with ten press or printer's marks, sand-blasted into plate glass. The stair-rail, also on the east

side, is ornamented by sixteen cast-aluminum panels, each bearing a printer's mark on each face. Thus, there are twenty-six marks in all. Each one in aluminum appears twice. And if you think selecting twenty-six marks, each one significant, is an easy job, I wish I had had the benefit of your knowledge. It took me two years, and in the end I had to originate one mark for a printer who never had a mark to call his own. There are hundreds of marks, and even after certain qualifications are established, the task is monumental. (I believe this is the only pun I am guilty of here.)

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## Vermilion Parish Memorial Library Building

CLEO SONGY, *Librarian*  
Vermilion Parish

The Vermilion Parish Memorial Library building, of modern design, is of light buff brick on reinforced concrete construction, with an entrance of plate glass trimmed in stainless steel. It was completed in March of 1950. It is fire-proof throughout, an important factor in insurance costs, and is air-conditioned, with a blower type of installation. This is considered one of the greatest assets of the building, both from the point of view of the comfort of the staff members and the large number of new patrons who have started using the library since its opening, but it must be kept in mind that such a system is expensive to operate. The building is a story and a half, measuring approximately 54 x 108 feet, serving a population of approximately 9000, and the headquarters for a parish library system serving a population of 38,000. A bookmobile garage is built into the building immediately behind the work room, facilitating the loading and unloading of books by means of book trucks

rolled on a platform which leads to the door of the truck.

Undoubtedly the greatest error made in the planning and construction of the building was the failure on the part of the Librarian and the Board of Trustees to enter into an agreement with the Police Jury before making the choice of an architect. The architect recommended by the Library Board was given no consideration by the Police Jury, who had already decided on their choice without consulting the Trustees. It is therefore recommended that when plans are being made for a parish library building, this situation be discussed between the building committees of these two bodies.

The decision to build the library as a memorial to deceased veterans of World Wars I and II was an important factor in getting the bond issue passed.

The Vermilion Parish Library was fortunate in having as members of its board a lawyer who was willing to attend to all the



legal details of the property and contracts, and a retired superintendent of schools who had a great deal of experience in building. That, together with the help of the State Library and the various books on Library architecture helped to avoid many errors which undoubtedly would have been made.

The location of the building is ideal—directly across from the town square in the heart of the business district which is almost the center of town.

The flooring is green asphalt tile over concrete, a most attractive covering and one which is as easily cleaned as any waxed surface. Fluorescent lights are used throughout the building except in the stacks where incandescent stack lights were installed. If fluorescent lights are used, however, some type of shield should be used on the fixtures. In the reading rooms frosted glass was used from the ceiling down to the three-foot shelving beneath the windows. The shelves there should have been built higher, providing more shelving in the reading room, and reducing the amount of glare when the sun shines directly on the glass. Except for the short period during the day when the sun shines directly on the glass, however, the frosted glass reduces glare and allows enough natural light to make the use of artificial light unnecessary. Ceilings are of acoustically treated plaster.

The built-in magazine racks have proved very satisfactory. A cabinet-type rack is used with a hinged shelf under which back issues are placed. The current issue lies flat on this shelf which is tilted back to allow full view of the cover of every magazine. The back issues are thus easily accessible merely by lifting the shelf and do not detract from the appearance of the magazine rack. At least a year's back issues can be kept there. The tops of the bookshelves under the windows are also tilted, giving a large amount of space for exhibiting books, book jackets, etc.

The reading rooms were decorated in various shades of green, an attractive, restful and cool color. The work room and meeting room are bright yellow trimmed in green.

The furniture is limed oak which harmonizes very well with the green.

The librarian's office was placed next to the reading room with glass windows between to allow supervision of reading rooms when no staff member is at the desk. This is very advantageous in parish libraries where a small number of staff members perform a number of different duties.

Two storage closets were built between the workroom and reading room, but more storage space should have been planned. Part of the space in the Bookmobile garage could have been used for this purpose.

No partition was built between the adult and juvenile reading rooms and all books are circulated from the centrally located desk.

Although all books on library architecture recommended that the assembly room have an outside entrance, this feature could not be planned because of the size of the lot. However, the meeting room has brought in many people who have since become patrons, and since the room can be shut off from the rest of the building, activities held there during the day do not disturb patrons in the library at all.

Estimating that the collection of books in the headquarters building in 20 years should be approximately 30,500, based on the number of books at the present time, the number added annually, and the estimated population increase during that time, the figure of one book per capita instead of the two recommended by the American Library Association was used to determine how much space should be allowed for shelving.

Much criticism has been directed at the library recently because of the fact that when the bond issue was voted it provided for a headquarters building, but no buildings for branches. The question was not raised at the time of the voting, but has recently been discussed to a great extent in two towns which are smaller than the parish seat. Since this problem would eventually occur in most places where a central library would be built, it might be well to investigate this matter



before deciding upon what sum of money is to be voted.

The cost of the building was \$91,260 or \$10.50 per square foot, plus the architect's fee of \$5400 or 6%. The difference between

the amount collected from the bonds (\$90,000) and the actual cost of the building was paid out of severance tax funds. The cost included all shelving and magazine racks, but did not include furniture, which was donated by a library patron.

## Twelve Years in a Library Building

MRS. ERNEST A. GUEYMARD, *Assistant Librarian*  
East Baton Rouge Parish Library

It would be hard to do on even normally busy days, but in an emergency one person can supervise three reading rooms and the stacks, and can check out books from the Children's room at East Baton Rouge Parish Library. This economy in supervision is the most practical and serviceable feature of the library building plan.

A little more than twelve years ago in East Baton Rouge Parish the headquarters and Baton Rouge Branch Library Building was built. A competent architect, who to this person's knowledge had never before designed a library, drew the plans. Much later, just before time for the construction to begin, the library committee of the Police Jury presented these plans to Miss Essae M. Culver for approval and comment. Several important omissions were corrected, but it was too late for other corrections to be worked out. No librarian for the parish had as yet been selected.

It was prophesied, and the prophecy was repeated to then Mayor Wade Bynum, that the library would outgrow its quarters in ten years. "A very healthy development," said Mayor Bynum. "Any business that can outgrow its quarters in ten years is a thriving one and should be very happy to have reached that stage." The prophecy came true, and we are happy to have grown and progressed to capacity, but now we are faced with years ahead of us in such a crowded state that our service will be handicapped by time wasted in constant shifting of shelves due to books on top of books.

Many librarians and library board members over the state have visited us to see and talk about this building. It has space that would be adequate for smaller libraries and the plan is one that is easily expanded or reduced to suit the need of the community.

The building is on two floors with a 3rd floor balcony. The basement floor is partly under ground level and houses the children's room, the engine room, two restrooms and a large work area for our headquarters for the Parish Library. The first or main floor is about 7 feet above ground level and on this floor there are three reading rooms, including one room for the reference collection and one room for magazines. There are two small offices on the first floor, one for the librarian and one for the inter-library loan and orders librarian.

This climate is too damp to house a library as far underground as is our basement floor. Books stored there develop "whiskers" from the mildew and the dampness is bad for the health of the staff. The construction of this basement unfortunately did not make it waterproof and no contractors have been willing to bid on waterproofing this building below ground level and guarantee the work. The upper ground part of the basement puts the first floor far enough above the street to make necessary a climb to the door, and a rail should really be added for safety.

The charging desk is in the center room in front of the stacks and looks out on the three reading rooms. Back of the desk are ten double tiers of stacks, six sections deep.

The balcony is a second storey of stacks, also 10 double tiers of shelves. The height of the rest of the rooms on the 1st floor is nearly two stories.

The entrance to the library is at the angle of the corner with the reading rooms placed exactly north, west, and south of the lot. There is a separate entrance to the children's room between the south and west reading rooms. This entrance has often been closed and the children requested to bring their books to the adult charging desk at night or during slack hours when the children's librarian is not there.

The people who have come have asked just the question that this issue of the *Bulletin* features, "What do you like? What don't you like? How can we improve on your plan?"

We like the economy in supervision, mentioned above. We like the lighting although it's expensive, and we like the lighting in our stacks. The lights are large indirect lights, not fluorescent, each light having a 750 watt bulb which is expensive to buy and to use. The stack lights are shaded with a twisted metal shade that throws the light on the books and never in one's eyes.

The building is attractive both outside and inside. The outside is of white sandstone block, quite plain in architecture. Inside are simulated marble columns in a salmon pink and marble window ledges of a darker shade. All the woodwork is dark, and so are the tables, chairs, shelves and stacks. The floors are cork tile. Dark woodwork is less cheery than light in my opinion, but many people prefer it. There are neither comfortable lounge chairs in the building nor an area for browsing and reading outside of the magazine room which has only straight chairs and tables. The cork floors are very hard to keep. They absorb the dust and show the dirt. They're so soft that wax is impractical, and Bakelite finishes have proved to be a complete failure. More time has been spent by the librarian on the problem of floor care than was spent on any other single problem of the library, and no one has been able to propose a plan on how the janitor can care

for cork floors and do anything else all day! The floors are wonderfully quiet and soft to walk on, and we are fortunate to have the comfort they provide. We think the dirt and bad looks are worth the comfort. The children's room, the stacks, and the downstairs work room are floored in asphalt tile. This has not been too hard to keep.

For those who are making plans now we can offer these suggestions for additions and changes:

Air conditioning has ceased to be an unheard of luxury for libraries, especially in this climate. We see that all office buildings, stores, including grocery stores, are air conditioned and know that these businesses find the air conditioning profitable. Our stacks had 3 attic fans over them which we took out and made into 3 large floor fans. We do not recommend this because we later had to add small fans at the end of each aisle of stacks, and it is still unbearably hot there in the summer. The attic fans were more comfortable than the small fans.

For heating we have steam heat which is adequate. If some arbitrator knows how to set the thermostat so that the cold-natured staff and patrons and the warm-natured staff and patrons are both satisfied at the same time, we would be happy to hear the plan. In our basement the heating is forced air. When the fan is on and the heat is off, cold air comes into the room. When the fan is on and the heat is on, warm air comes in. When the fan is off, no air is forced in. This does not work by a thermostat, merely by hand control and therefore it is not satisfactory. For the children's room at East Baton Rouge Parish Library, the hand control is out of the room seventy-five feet away. Before one realizes that the heat is off, the room is cold and it takes a long time to warm it up again.

In the basement we had drop lights with 150 watt bulbs in them. Since this was the large work room for the library the lighting was not adequate. So fluorescent fixtures replaced the drop lights. The installation was expensive but we were told that if we put larger bulbs in our old fixtures, the cost of

electricity would exceed the cost of installing the fluorescent fixtures.

A fairly recent improvement to this library is accoustical board on the ceilings. Made of little square blocks with holes in them, this ceiling has just about eliminated any echoes or reverberations. The light color has kept this ceiling from detracting from the efficiency of the indirect lighting, although our glossy white plaster ceiling we had before gave more light.

There are two rest rooms down on the basement floor around the corner from the children's room, and one small staff toilet room on the first floor. The question of public use of the toilets has been argued over and over by the members of our staff. There was no trouble in making a decision at first because of inadequate maid service. A letter from the State Board of Health some years ago said that we were not required to open the room to the public.

The upstairs toilet room is too small for use by the entire staff. The fact that the rest rooms downstairs are so near and yet out of sight of the children's room is disturbing to the children's librarian who cannot supervise the use. Yet the requests from children for use of the restrooms are the most numerous. Pay toilets would not answer our real problem unless they would pay for the full time of an attendant in each rest room.

A staff room and kitchen would certainly be included in our plans if we could "build it again." No staff member needs to be told how such accommodations make the work pleasant, and the administrator sees staff time saved by coffee time being reduced to 15 minutes or less. The personnel is never out of the building when called for and coffee can really be had in five minutes if the desk is rushed. Lunch and supper at this library are a problem in this location where the restaurants are five blocks away and very crowded, and where parking facilities are so limited that we walk three blocks to get the car if we drive home for lunch.

Lack of parking facilities is not a problem in Baton Rouge alone. This problem exists in

every rapidly growing city in Louisiana. The only way in this persons opinion, to build a library today is to build on enough ground for library parking, because the streets and parking lots are inadequate. This doesn't mean the land for future expansion of the building, but a parking area in itself. A back driveway was omitted from the plan for this library and until it was recently added, it was very much needed. A loading platform is not a luxury, although we don't have one. We feel that it would save many man-hours.

An addition to this library which has proved popular with the patrons is the outside drive-up book return for patrons who can't park and want only to return books, and for patrons who come after library hours to return books. To check these books in and off the patron's card takes much longer that it does when the patron comes in with her own books; nevertheless, the convenience to the patron has been so great that the service has created good-will.

Another addition which has more than justified its expense is the exhibit case in our entrance way. A flat exhibit case was included in the initial furnishings for the library. The case in our hall is upright with adjustable shelves and three sections. The exhibits in these cases are attractive to the patrons. Furthermore, the arrangement for exhibits between the library and the person or group concerned has caused good will and proven to be the best kind of introduction between the library service and book collection and the public. If such a case could be built in at the start, there might be money saved.

A collection of some 40 albums of records has just been presented to this library and this gift brought to the front once more several of our needs. The wall space is limited for the addition of shelving to house the records. There is no place we can add or build in a record room here. There is no conference room or story hour room which could play a double or triple purpose. The children's room is crowded so that the over-

flow of the book collection goes into shelves placed in the center of the room. When story hours are held the children are put over on the larger side of this divided area. Often there are 100 children and the area is inadequate for this number. Movies are difficult to show because of the area for vision.

Wall space should not be minimized. It is difficult to have art exhibits—(we place some pictures on chairs placed back to back in the middle of our largest reading room); vertical file cabinets and the picture collection with their indexes take up almost a whole wall.

## Mississippi State College Library

DONALD E. THOMPSON, *Director of Libraries*

Mississippi State College had needed a new library building for many years and, up to 1950, it had always been housed in a building with other college functions. Several buildings were planned and some nearly materialized but, in the end, nothing definite ever happened. Right after the second World War, plans were started for a new building. In 1947, Dr. A. F. Kuhlman, Director of the Joint University Libraries in Nashville, was retained as consultant. Johnson and Jones, a local firm which has built many other buildings for the college, was named architect. Preliminary plans were drawn and a small brochure was compiled and presented to members of the 1948 legislature. In the spring of 1948, the legislature appropriated \$950,000 for the library building. During the rest of 1948, plans were completed. Bids were opened in March, 1949, and construction started in April. The library was completed during the summer of 1950, and the move was made in time to open the new building for the fall semester in September, 1950. Since then, there has been time to become somewhat adjusted and settled and to notice places where changes might be made if it were possible to start all over again. Some of these changes are described in the following paragraphs. Others are too minor to mention.

The circulation desk is on the floor above the main entrance. It is on the level of the fourth floor of the book stacks which puts it on the correct floor from that point-of-view,

since there are seven floors of book stacks. From the point-of-view of the public, however, the circulation desk should be on the ground floor to make it more easily available to the library patrons.

There are two reference rooms, one for the social sciences and humanities and one for the physical and biological sciences. The reference books and periodicals are divided for each room by the subjects indicated. Current issues of periodicals are placed on open shelves and the bound volumes are shelved alphabetically in the book stacks adjacent to each reference room. A division of this sort may be advisable for a large research library or for any type of library which centralizes reference, periodicals, circulation, and reserve functions of all materials on one broad subject in one place. In a small college library where the graduate program is limited, the subject division of reference books and periodicals does not seem warranted.

When the library was built, book stacks were not installed on the first and seventh stack floors. These stacks will be needed within the next few years, and it may not be possible to obtain them because of the steel shortage or unavailability of funds. They should have been installed when the library was being built.

After having worked with some of the service desks, there are changes that might be made. More space should have been provided behind these desks in most cases. This is especially true in one reference room



where there is no space to shelve much-used reference books. Certain physical details of some of the desks need to be altered. Some of the service rooms need private offices.

The tops of the reading room tables and service desks are covered with  $\frac{1}{8}$ " inlaid linoleum. The tops of the tables are wearing well, but the linoleum on the service desks is wearing and many scratches are evident.

All chairs, except those for desks, have arms. These chairs have worked out well at reading room tables but are not satisfactory for carrels in the stacks because they take up too much room. All of these chairs were fitted with smooth glides on the front legs and tilting glides on the back legs. The tilting glides often make too much noise when the chairs are moved in and out from the tables.

The staff room is too small. It will comfortably seat 8 or 10 people, but it is not large enough for the entire library staff of 20 people, or a similar group.

A large picture window, directly across the circulation lobby, faces the circulation desk from the west. The problem of direct and indirect glare from the sun proved annoying until heavy drapes were installed. This, however, eliminates the natural light.

We have three seminar rooms that will seat 15-20 people, three that will seat 6-8 people, and an auditorium that will hold 88 people. We could use another seminar room for about 40 people.

The disadvantages mentioned above are far outweighed by the advantages of our new library. The space in the building has been utilized very well. There are no large and useless sections such as massive lobbies. The pastel colors throughout are pleasant. All furniture and woodwork is in an attractive light oak. The lighting averages 40-50 foot candles at table level which is more than adequate. All in all, the building, equipment, and furnishings are beautiful and utilitarian without being ostentatious.

## The Carver Branch of the Ouachita Parish Public Library

FRANCES FLANDERS, *Librarian*  
Ouachita Parish

The Carver Branch was made possible by the cooperation of several groups. The Colored Chamber of Commerce initiated the movement, and secured the active interest of the Librarian, the Board of Control, the Police Jury, the Junior Chamber of Commerce (white) and numerous individuals.

Beginning with temporary rented quarters on the grounds of the Colored High School on February 12, 1949, the branch was finally moved into the present structure which is located in the heart of the colored section of the city. The lot was donated by the Police Jury. A barracks building, 20 x 100 feet, at Selman Field, was purchased for

\$55.00, to be converted into a permanent branch.

Our next project was getting the plans drawn and getting it moved. Mr. W. King Stubbs, a leading architect of Monroe, drew the plans and had a number of blueprints made without any cost to the Library. The plan is a simple one. The building was cut in half, leaving a room 20 x 50 feet which was first moved to the lot. Then 12 feet was cut from the remaining section and moved to the lot, where it was placed at the back center of the other section, with the 20 foot side against the back wall. The large section is the main library room. The back sec-



tion was divided into three rooms, one 12 x 12 is the librarian's office, one 8 x 8 is a store room and one 4 x 8 is a powder room. The remainder of the lumber was brought to the site to be used in the carpentry work. All of this work and setting the building up on concrete supports was included in the moving contract of \$470.00.

Since the building as purchased was only a shell, there was a great deal of work to be done. A new end wall had to be built on the main room. The entire building had to be ceiled. Old partitions had to be removed and new ones constructed in the back section. A new roof was laid and the outside covered with white asbestos shingles. The walls were papered and woodwork and facings inside and out were built.

We decided on asphalt tile floor covering, but when we got ready to have it laid, we found that the floor was a single one and we had to lay another floor before the tile could be applied. In the powder room inlaid linoleum was used. We used the daylight fluorescent lights. They are easier on the eyes than the blue white type. We have found them entirely satisfactory. The heating is done with natural gas heaters. There are two large heaters in the main room and a small one in the Librarian's office. This is sufficient except in very severe weather. The cooling system of a large window fan is not satisfactory. Window fans do not cool in the day time. If I could rectify my mistake, I would purchase the type which cools by blowing over running water. I have seen it used most successfully.

The color scheme in the branch is most attractive and has received very favorable comment. The wall paper in the main room is a blue plaid with aquamarine secondary. The draw curtains are made of aquamarine crash. The chairs for the adults were donated by the Frances Hotel. We had them sprayed with a gray enamel and recovered the cushions in a leather-like fabric the same color as the drapes. The shelves and woodwork are in a mahogany color, matching a stripe in the paper. The tables, card catalog cabinet, charging desk and chairs for the children are

in a light oak color. In the office plaid paper with green and yellow colors was used, with yellow curtains to match. The desk and matching chair are in a light oak color. In both rooms a dark brown asphalt tile floor covering was used.

We did not have a general contractor for the building, because the money was received in various installments. All of the work was supervised by the Members of the Board of Control and the Librarian.

The actual cash outlay on this building was \$3,024.33. Of this sum the Colored Chamber of Commerce raised \$1,969.00. The Junior Chamber of Commerce (white) donated \$200.00. Other gifts amounted to \$65.00 and we spent \$790.33 from the Library funds. This made an average cost for building and furnishing of \$2.44 per square foot. This figure is extremely low and could not have been achieved without gifts.

The City of Monroe donated all electric wiring, plumbing and plumbing fixtures. A colored painter donated his labor on painting the shelves. The stoves, charging desk, vertical file, librarian's desk and chair, and a new typewriter on a movable table were donated by colored clubs and individuals. A small reading table, 12 chairs for adults, 12 small chairs for children, a rocking chair and a dictionary stand were donated by white friends.

After the building was completed and dedicated, the City of Monroe levelled the grounds and the Monroe Garden Club landscaped them. The sign was made and donated by a sign maker. The Colored Chamber of Commerce built a cement sidewalk. The Librarian of the Carver Branch, who had worked untiringly for gifts before the branch was opened, by giving a pop concert and a style show raised enough money to buy the window fan, awnings for the front windows and to build a fence around the lot.

The building is most attractive and is kept spotlessly clean. It is a fine example of community cooperation for a needed project and one that portrays an encouraging picture of life in the South.

## Modern or Provincial? New Theological Library in Gentilly

NELLE C. DAVIDSON, Librarian  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Our new library building has green shutters at the windows and white grille work which enhances its beauty of red brick in a setting of pecan trees. When the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary moves from its present home in the beautiful Garden District of New Orleans to its new location in Gentilly, it will embody several distinctive features, not only in architectural beauty, but design, interior decoration, and equipment. Perhaps no other seminary president of this century has had the unique dual privilege of buying a seventy-five acre plot for a new campus and planning an all-inclusive program of theological education so effectively. President Roland Q. Leavell in selecting the leading architects for such a program chose them with care. He was able to convey his outstanding ideas to the designing architect. Consequently, he had in mind the entire campus and the individual building in its relationship to the whole. This in itself is a rare experience. The library building is the first in the academic quadrangle. It is already in use. There are to be eight other buildings when completed. In addition five apartment buildings are already finished with plans going forward for other buildings at the present time, plus faculty residences.

The type of architecture is French Renaissance. Strictly speaking, it is Early Louisiana Plantation type which blends perfectly in this setting. The library occupies a center position in the campus activities while the chapel proper occupies the central position since the spiritual life of the seminary is portrayed by its chapel. The construction engineers have done an excellent job in building not only a beautiful red brick, fire resistant, all steel structure building, but they have

taken in consideration the necessary precautions of pilings, concrete foundation, with elevation and all the other details that go into making the most desirable structure. The exterior of the building facing Gentilly Boulevard or Chef Menteur is one hundred seventy-two feet long. It has typical iron balconies. The patio is off the main reading room and enclosed by an eight foot brick wall. There are characteristic bronze lamps at the entrances. There is a sloping asbestos roof with six dormers in the front and two red brick chimneys and a dormer on each end of the roof. The reading room has a flat roof. The east entrance to the library from Seminary Place has an arcade lighted with typical New Orleans brass lights. It has two double door entrances, the main one entering the corridor going to the main lobby and the other for the receiving room in the order department. The center entrance to the library is a copy of an old Louisiana mansion except that it has triple double mahogany doors. There are crab orchard flagstone steps. The center campus entrance is a triple double door entrance also. The entrance from the patio is through double doors. All the doorways have glass paneling on each side, carrying out the touch of magnificence in the old plantation architecture. The building has its own heating plant and ventilation system. It has metal guttering and a beautiful cornice. The cornerstone is white Georgian marble. On the west side it has the "Library Building," the date, 1950-51, with the seal of the school in incised letters. On the south side it carries the name of the president of the Board of Trustees, president of the seminary, librarian, architects, and builders. These letters are also incised. Not

only was the history of the institution sealed in the cornerstone, but also were plans of the library and other sentimental valuables. At the east elevation there is an arcade that is later to connect with a promenade to be extended to other buildings. Not only has the library building been planned for efficiency and service for a growing student body, but with vision for the future. There is a patio at the end of the stacks that could easily be expanded if it ever becomes necessary. The same is true for the reading room.

The main lobby is the center of activity, housing the built-in card catalog and the circulation desk. It is especially beautiful in its St. Genevieve rose marble paneling, pilasters, verdi trim, and light mahogany doors and woodwork. The entrance from the lobby to the main reading room is through double swinging doors with a transom of English leading. The lobby floor is terrazzo with a modernistic baseboard of the same material containing a touch of green to blend with the trim. By way of contrast in the terrazzo is the world map with the missionary message in large Gothic letters. The plastered walls in the lobby above the marble paneling are Williamsburg blue. The acoustic ceiling's chief attraction is the white plastered medallion with a brass chandelier. The lighting in the lobby is a concealed type of fluorescent. The circulation desk is marble paneling with a Library Bureau standard charging desk with a book return and collapsible book truck. It has all the modern features of convenience, efficiency, and beauty since the woodwork is mahogany trim to blend with the other mahogany paneling used.

The librarian's office is in mahogany paneling. On the other side of the lobby is the coat room that is easily accessible from the main entrance or from the east elevation entrance. The outstanding feature of the cataloging and order departments is its functional purpose. We have already described the unloading dock at the east elevation. One person can supervise this whole department because there are no partitions. These may

be made with stacks according to the needs. Three lavatories have been carefully planned to make the department more workable. The card catalog and stacks are easily accessible. There are three levels of stacks designed for a collection of one hundred thousand volumes. A lavatory is on each stack level. At the end of the stacks are carrels for graduate study. There is an electric book lift in the stack area to serve all three levels. On entering the main reading room from the lobby one comes into a beautifully lighted, spacious room finished in light mahogany with book shelving around the wall. The floor is cork. Two mahogany columns support a mezzanine for the overflow reading room. It is accessible by a circular stairway with mahogany tread and railing. It is an architectural dream. The ceiling is acoustic white and the walls in the library and on the mezzanine are in Williamsburg green which makes the reader unconscious of color with fluorescent lighting, but creates an atmosphere conducive for study and research. The seating capacity when it is fully furnished will be thirty-five to forty percent of a thousand students. There are two types of windows used throughout the library building, the early Louisiana Plantation type and an awning type. The reading room has the best north light available. From the assistant librarian's office the reading room and mezzanine are easily supervised by the use of glass paneling. The patio is just off the west elevation of the reading room. The double doors lead from the reading room to the patio. Going down the corridor from the lobby to the west elevation there is a large glass display case. At both ends of the corridor are double swinging metal fire-resistant doors. The first floor can be locked and the second floor may be used without accessibility to the first floor. On the first floor there are the lounges. In the entrance from the west elevation there is a cloak room, telephone booths, and a water fountain. There is a stairway leading to second floor. At the east elevation there is also a stairway leading to second floor. The corridors on first floor are Williamsburg blue.

On the second floor there are two small reading rooms or seminars. On either side of the center reading room are offices with modular walls. In addition there are lounges and a kitchenette modernly equipped. Opposite this center reading room is a door leading to the mezzanine. The stacks have already been described. There are metal fire-resistant doors on the second floor at the head of the stairs. All other floors are linoleum. The stairways are terrazzo with metal tread trim and with railings in keeping with the architectural beauty of the building.

The main functional feature of this theo-

logical library building is its useability and the service it will render. It is simple in design in that the center of its activities are easily accessible and inter-related to each other. This feature unifies as well as simplifies the whole functional service. The library collection contains many rare and out-of-print theological books, large holdings in church history and important denominational materials, long runs of periodicals, microfilm, and records. By adapting this beautiful old Louisiana architecture we think we have a streamlined library building suitable for theological research in this atomic age.

## The Book Festival

N. M. GITTINGER

State Library Publicity Assistant

Planned to stimulate continuing programs on American Heritage, the Louisiana State Library's Book Festival in October emphasized the American Library Association's provocative 75th anniversary theme throughout.

The Louisiana State Library School cooperated in sponsoring the Festival, held on the LSU campus October 25-27.

The Festival program featured talks by three guest speakers, exhibits of children's and adult books, showings of 16 mm films and displays of club suggestions.

Each speaker stressed an increasing need for renewed acquaintance and understanding of American Heritage, particularly in the light of today's turbulent world conditions.

Speakers were Elizabeth Riley, children's editor for the Thomas Y. Crowell Co.; Frank H. Wardlaw, director of the University of Texas Press; and Walter Watkins, author and former LSU lecturer, on the history of literary criticism.

Miss Riley said that book publishers, feeling themselves "the last stronghold of a free press in the world today," are deeply con-

scious of their responsibility to deal in good books. Librarians, she pointed out, share in that responsibility. Miss Riley's subjects were "Books That Interpret the American Heritage to Young People" and "Books for Young Adults."

Watkins spoke on "Trends in Contemporary Fiction with Emphasis on William Faulkner" and on "Reassessment of the American Tradition." Wardlaw discussed "Regional Publishing and Our National Heritage."

Designed to help librarians plan programs on the Heritage theme for library and club use, the exhibits included displays of suggested materials. These were a sample discussion program on "This American People," the book written by Gerald W. Johnson for the ALA's 75th anniversary celebration; a list of suggested program topics; and a film forum exhibit accompanied by a list of State Library 16 mm films emphasizing American Heritage. Copies of the film forum suggestions were distributed at showings of nine Heritage films.

Of special interest were two displays of



Heritage books for adults and children, gifts of publishers, shown with lists compiled by the State Library. Other exhibits were of current books for adults and children, provided by local bookstores; a young people's general interest collection, with a State Library-compiled list; and a Louisiana exhibit. Publishers' loans of posters, jackets and orig-

inal illustrations were effective additions to the exhibits.

The Festival was planned at a meeting of representatives of the State Library, the LSU Library School and the LSU Library. State Library field representative Sallie Farrell directed the program.

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## Librarian for a Day

No, I'm not a bookworm. In fact, I am far from it. But I was librarian for a day at the Loyola University Library. If you have ever thought that the small lady who stands behind the desk does nothing but stamp the date due on your book, I hope I can set you on the right track.

First of all, we shall disprove the belief that librarians are bookworms. I am sure that if she could really sit down and digest a good book she would be happy. But you see this is almost impossible. She is about the busiest person you have ever met. I can say this because I had the experience for a day.

When I arrived at the Loyola Library, the first job assigned to me was to paste the pockets in some books. From this class I graduated to the exchange desk where I learned the "how and why" of checking out books, putting them back on the shelf and all about the reserve shelves. My next tour was through the stacks. Books, and still more books, and yet each one had its own place.

By this time I was ready for lunch, which I enjoyed in the Loyola Cafeteria.

After lunch I was sent to the first floor to the Science Department of the library. In general, everything was the same as it was upstairs, but there were a few differences in the stacks.

Here I was given the job of filing some new cards in the catalogue. Of course they were checked because I was new at the game.

In both sections, I was shown around the reading rooms which have all types of reference books and periodicals for the student's use.

My day came to an end much too soon to suit me. I could have stayed forever, learning something new each minute. I cannot really say how much I enjoyed the experience, but I can thank everyone who made this day possible for me.

DONNA DERBES  
Mount Carmel Academy  
New Orleans 19, La.

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## Book Review

*Health of Slaves on Southern Plantations*; by William Dosite Postell. Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1951. Illus. pp. 231. Price, \$3.00.

Based entirely on original research, W. D. Postell's volume on the health of slaves on Southern plantations, represents a real contribution to the socio-economic as well as the medical history of the South. The study has

been supported by a grant-in-aid from the Research Council of Louisiana State University, since much travel has been necessary over a period of several years, in examination of manuscripts and documentary records only to be found in local collections from Virginia to Texas.

The book begins with chapters on the Health Problems of the South and an ex-



planation of the Plantation System. Following this, Mr. Postell describes the provision made for the slaves' food, clothing and shelter, as shown in the financial records of the plantations and in the descriptive accounts of contemporary travelers. Sections on Plantation Medicine deal with the provision for medical care, prevalence of disease and injury, as well as with means used by the planters in preventing disease and methods of therapy. The Care of Women and Children receives special attention and a chapter is devoted to Hospitals for Slaves. The study closes with an evaluation of the descriptive and statistical data presented, and over 60 pages of bibliography, indicative of the ex-

tent to which the findings have been documented.

No other book in print covers in so full and authoritative a way, this phase of Southern history. It should be a source of vicarious pride to all Louisiana librarians that such a research project has been conducted and reported by a librarian who is a Louisianian by heritage, by birth and by education; perhaps not only a matter of pride, but also of inspiration, that motivated only by a sincere interest in the subject, such an historical contribution can have been achieved by a busy librarian as an extra-curricular activity.

MARY LOUISE MARSHALL

## Modisette Award to School Libraries Again Won By the Natchitoches High School

N. M. GITTINGER

State Library Publicity Assistant

For the second year, the Natchitoches High School Library has received the Louisiana Library Association's Modisette award to school libraries.

A program to widen students' reading interests won the 1950-51 award for Natchitoches. The 1949-50 award went to Natchitoches for a student guidance program.

Agnes Clark, Natchitoches high school librarian, accepted the award at a library section meeting of the Louisiana Education Association in Shreveport, November 20. Mrs. Lena de Grummond, state supervisor of school libraries and member of the awards committee, made the presentation.

Featuring a non-compulsory list of "100 Best Books" which all high school graduates should have read, the reading plan resulted in student reading of 5000 more books this year from the school library. Also included in the program were assembly talks by guest

speakers on the classics followed by "recommended books" displays; classroom discussions of students' favorite books; poetry displays; "author's birthday" and "artist of the week" exhibits. (The program was described in the LLA Bulletin's 1951 Fall issue by Lucille T. Carnahan, former Natchitoches school librarian now of the Northwestern State College staff.)

The Louisiana Library Association makes the award annually in memory of the late J. O. Modisette of Jennings, chairman of the Louisiana State Library board for 15 years and widely known Louisiana library leader. Annual awards go also to public and college libraries.

Kathryn Adams, assistant director of the State Library's extension department, is chairman of the LLA's Modisette award committee, of which Dr. Garland Taylor, librarian of Howard-Tilton Memorial library at Tulane, is the third member.

## Random Notes on the Bibliography of Arms and Armor

WALTER GOLDSTEIN

Waldhorn Co., Inc., New Orleans, La.

Quite some years ago I became actively interested in arms and armor. Being possessed of a curiosity several times larger than my size I wanted to know first of all what made them tick, and then all about their construction, decoration, and methods of manufacture. Last but not least I wanted to know the when, where, and why of weapons. My first practical step was employment as an apprentice to an elderly German gunsmith at the princely sum of fifty cents a week, Saturdays and after school. Sad to relate, I learned very little, for my employer lacked the ability to impart knowledge, and worst of all from my viewpoint, he was secretive in the extreme. Nearly all artisans are reluctant to divulge the secrets of their art, and this one was no exception to the rule. This first experience had no deleterious effect on my ambitions; in fact it made me resolve to learn what I wanted to know on my own, sans benefit of teachers, especially crabbed old sexagenarians addicted to limburger cheese sandwiches for lunch. Next stop was of course, the library. At that time the N. O. Public library had little to offer in the line of books on arms and armor. I digested *Arms and Armor*, by Boutell, all of the articles in the encyclopedia, the dictionary, and what other items available at the time, which were few, and of doubtful value. This served only to whet my appetite, so on to the second hand book stores. Again I ran into disappointment, nothing available in second hand items, and few in new items. Being in modest circumstances, the new items that I could not afford to buy, were read in numerous browsing sessions that did not particularly endear me to the book dealers. From these sources though, I did find num-

erous titles of weapons books that were in and out of print, which gave me something to go on, at least, in my search. Many years and quite a few dollars later, I found myself in possession of a fairly good nucleus for a collection of books on the subject, but only a nucleus, for none of my precious volumes gave an overall picture of the subject except in broad generalities, and I wanted details, details, pin points of the matter at hand! It was not until 1934 when the now defunct Southworth press brought out George Cameron Stone's monumental "Glossary of arms and armor" that I really began to get the type of information that I wanted so badly. Here was a book more to my taste, profusely illustrated, well written, with a wealth of information between its covers—a real treasure. I had some difficulty in raising the purchase price, as it was during the depression, but I have never regretted the lunches passed up, and the luxuries denied in order to buy this book. Since 1934 there have been quite a few books of real value to the weapons collector published, and I am appending a list of the most worthy ones, at least in my estimation, a list that I hope will be of some guidance to librarians seeking books on this subject. As I see it, a public library is for the benefit of the public at large, and not for the privileged few, and books that can give the most information to the masses should be the stock in trade, and not the extremely rare items for the use of scholars—the type of book which more properly belongs in the vaults of the universities and museums. The first book on my list of course is: *A glossary of the Construction, Decoration, and Use of Arms and Armor*, 1934 Southworth press, by George Cameron Stone,

(republished by Ray Riling, Philadelphia, 1950). This book covers almost the entire field of weapons, for the most part dealing with Oriental weapons; it's chief value is in the illustrations and text which goes to great lengths to explain most items listed. It is the best book on edged weapons that I have ever seen or read. Next, *Small Arms of the World*, by W. H. B. Smith, Military Service Publishing Co. This is the most comprehensive book ever written on military small arms. It covers the field from about 1900 to 1950, with a few older examples shown. Its chief value is in the schematic drawings, teaching the assembly and dis-assembly of weapons, ammunition used, functioning, country of origin, proof marks, whether safe to use or not, in all, a book that I would have literally sold my soul to the Devil to obtain 25 years ago. Close on the heels of this gem follows *Pistols and Revolvers*, volume one of the National Rifle Association's book of small arms and volume two, *Rifles and Shotguns*, both by Mr. Smith, and published by the Military Service Publishing Co. of Harrisburg, Pa. These are invaluable to the gunsmith and collector. The next is, *The Gun Collector's Handbook of Values*, by Charles Edward Chapel, Coward, McCann, Inc., New York, chiefly valuable for identification of American firearms. The values placed on the items are purely theoretical, serving mainly to establish a minimum value. With the increase of interest in matters pertaining to the Confederate States of America, *Firearms of the Confederacy*, by Fuller and Steuart is of real

value, covering the lesser known field of Confederate firearms. Before I forget, *Hand Cannon to Automatic* by Herschel Logan is a must for the beginner in fire arms. For specialized information in American weapons, the three books by Colonel Arcadi Gluckman, and the three monographs by James E. Serven should be in all reference rooms, for Colonel Gluckman covers the field of American martial arms, and Mr. Serven's monographs are the last word in the Colt revolver line. Haven and Belden's *History of the Colt Revolver* is an excellent book; the Serven monographs take up where Haven and Belden leave off. As this discussion must necessarily be brief, I must pass up quite a few good items, but should there be anyone sufficiently interested in the subject to warrant the labor and expense of writing me, I shall be delighted to recommend books covering specialized fields, such as armor, military long guns, etc., and specific makers, such as Remington, Smith and Wesson, Whitney and others. I didn't mind making book reports in grammar school days, now I am inviting them! For the benefit of timid librarians, all gun collectors are just a wee bit eccentric; don't let the wild look fool you into thinking they are homicidal types, for in the main they are completely harmless. Warning! Don't let them get started talking guns; once started it requires considerable force to stop them, for next to fondling and admiring weapons, a real "Gun Nut" loves to talk about them, and talk, and talk.

## President's Report 1951

FRANCES VIVIAN FLANDERS, *Retiring President*

In reviewing the work of the Louisiana Library Association for the year 1951, I want first of all to pay tribute to the part played by each member of the Executive Board. Without their cooperation it would have been impossible to carry on the work of the

Association. I also wish to thank the committee chairman for their excellent work. Since most of the work of the Association is carried on by committees, their value to the Association is very great.

Of paramount importance to the member-

ship as a whole is the annual convention of the Association. The convention held in Alexandria, April 12-14, 1951, was a most successful one. The program committee provided excellent speakers. Especially inspiring was the address of Mr. Raymond Lindquist, Librarian of the Cuyahoga County Library of Cleveland, Ohio, at the opening session. The Book Dinner at which Miss Virginia Kirkus was the principal speaker was most enjoyable. There were 216 people registered at the convention. Since a large part of the financial success of a convention is dependent on the exhibitors, it is well to note that 18 firms were represented bringing a revenue of \$449.00 to the treasury. The general chairman and the hospitality committee did everything possible to make the convention a success. From a financial standpoint it is nice to report that the deficit on the convention was only \$34.08.

Miss Evelyn Peters, First Vice-President and President Elect, did a wonderful job as chairman of the membership committee. Under her guidance the membership was increased 109 over the previous year. At the close of 1951 the membership figures were:

Individual .....	479
Contributing .....	24
Institutional .....	47
Sustaining .....	5
<hr/>	
Total .....	555

The Treasurer's report will be found in detail elsewhere, but the Association is asked to note that for the second consecutive year the financial affairs of the Association were so conducted as to leave an increase in the treasury over the previous year. This speaks well for the ability of Miss Ruth Walling, the Treasurer.

Miss Marion Taylor, Second Vice-President, carried on an excellent public relations program. Her committee sent out two sets of notices to the membership before the convention. They obtained a great deal of newspaper publicity both before and during the convention. Several radio broadcasts were made at the time of the convention. Samples

of publicity were mounted for preservation in the form of a loose leaf scrap book and turned over to the succeeding Public Relations Committee.

The Committee on Constitution, By-laws and Manual, of which Dr. Andrew J. Eaton, Parliamentarian, was chairman devoted their efforts to completing a revision of the Manual. This they have done and it will be ready for distribution early in 1952. It will be of great value to future officers and committee chairmen.

It is impossible to praise too highly the work of Mrs. Nancy Sexton McGee, the efficient and helpful Secretary of the Association. She carried on a great deal of the correspondence of the Association, took minutes of all board meetings and of the convention and mailed copies to each member of the Executive Board. She also prepared the account of the convention which was published in the *Bulletin*. Before I leave the Executive Board, I must mention that the board met four times during the

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Holland Fifth Wheels,      Pic-up Poncho Top  
Morrison Side Boxes,      Campbell "Topper"



year. The Past President attended the January meeting only. The other members attended all of the meetings.

Miss Margaret Herdman and her staff deserve the thanks of the Association for publishing four splendid issues of the *Bulletin*. Miss Evelyn Taylor, Business Manager, is specially to be congratulated on the way in which she handled the finances of the *Bulletin*, so as to leave a balance on hand of \$80.48.

The other Committees of the Association reported the following activities.

#### *Adult education*

The Adult Education Committee considers the Citizenship Program sponsored by the Louisiana State Library the outstanding work in the field of adult education. All of the public libraries of the state do a great deal of work in this field, although most of it is in cooperation with established groups.

#### *Auditing Committee*

The members of the Auditing Committee reported on December 18, that they had examined the books and final report of the Treasurer and found everything to be correct and in order.

#### *Cooperation with the extension program of the Southwestern Library Association*

Mr. John Hall Jacobs, Chairman of this committee, sees no reason for its existence and recommends its dissolution.

#### *Federal Relations*

This committee was most active during 1951 and was concerned with the legislation listed below:

"Defense housing and community facilities and service act." Three parish libraries in Louisiana—Calcasieu, Beauregard and Rapides—will be eligible for aid under the provisions of this act, which was passed by Congress.

"Library service bill." This bill has been favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Labor and Welfare and will be called on

the floor for debate and vote in January. It is hoped that the House bill will have a favorable subcommittee hearing, when Congress convenes in January.

"Postal rates revision bill-Murray Amendment." This amendment froze book postage rates at present levels and its passage was most important to libraries.

"Defense production act-Davis Amendment." Our committee helped to defeat this amendment which would have created a new claimant agency for state and local governments and their subdivisions, thus removing libraries from the supervision of the Office of Education.

"Customs simplification act." The Committee sent memos to college and university libraries concerning the part of the act which related to the duty on imported books.

Special commendation goes to Miss Sallie Farrell and this committee for carrying on all these activities with no expense to the Association.

#### *Legislative*

The only activity undertaken by this Committee was an attempt to ascertain what legislation would be required to allow parish library employees to be covered under the Old Age and Survivors Insurance plan of the revised Social Securities Act.

No satisfactory answer was received. The special session of the legislature did not have enough time to go into the matter. This is a most important project and it is recommended that the Legislative Committee for 1952 continue it.

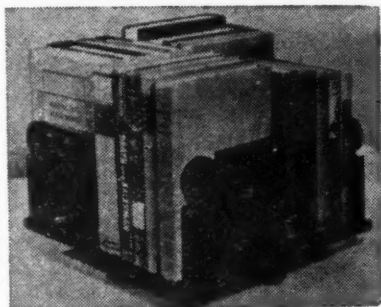
#### *Modisette Award*

The Committee worked in the public and school fields. Twenty-seven out of the thirty-three parish libraries participated, while three school libraries took part. The public library award went to Vermilion Parish and the School Library Award to Natchitoches High School.

#### *State Documents*

This Committee explored the possibility





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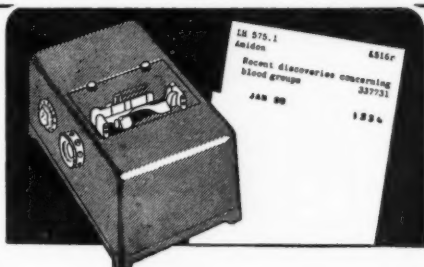
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of working out a classification scheme for state documents and recommended that the plan be given up as there were so few total depositories in the state.

Committees not listed were previously mentioned or failed to report.

#### *Summary of Section reports*

##### *College and Reference Section*

No report.

##### *Public Libraries Section*

The Public Library Section has a membership of 87 individual members, 2 contributing members and 14 institutional members, making a total of 103. This section met at the annual convention and heard Mr. Raymond Lindquist give an inspiring talk on publicity. At this time was born the idea of the Book Festival, so successfully put on by the Louisiana State Library, and the Library School and University Library of L.S.U. in October at the University.

##### *Trustees Section*

This section under the leadership of Mr. James Madison, who has been President for several years, meets annually at the Convention and the Trustees of the different Congressional Districts also meet at least once a year to discuss their problems.

##### *Louisiana Association of School Librarians*

This section has a membership of 141 consisting of 136 individual members, 2 contributing members and 3 institutional members.

They met twice during the year, once at

the annual convention of the Louisiana Library Association in Alexandria, and again at the Louisiana Education Association meeting in Shreveport in November. At both meetings inspiring programs were given.

This Association also sponsors a Louisiana Teen-Age Library group which holds its annual convention at the Louisiana State University during the summer, while the leadership conferences for young people are in session there. The conference this year was held June 18-19 under the leadership of Mrs. T. F. Wilbanks. 87 students representing 23 schools attended. This group is participating in the Unesco-Care Children's book fund program by sending three ten dollar units abroad.

At this time as retiring President of the Association I wish to thank all of you who have contributed to the success of this year's program. It is an inspiring and enlightening task to serve as President of your Association and I appreciate your conferring the privilege upon me. I enjoyed my year as President, but I am glad that the time has come to place the affairs of the Association in other hands, with all of my best wishes.

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### **Fraternity to Hold Convention**

Alpha Beta Alpha, the national, undergraduate Library Science Fraternity, will hold its first biennial Convention on the campus of Northwestern State College, Natchitoches, La., on March 15 and 16, following the LLA Convention, in Shreveport.



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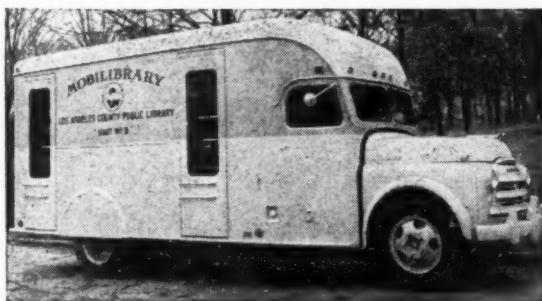
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# Treasurer's Report, 1951

By RUTH WALLING, *Treasurer*

Balance on hand, January 1, 1951..... \$1,081.07

## Receipts:

Dues .....	\$1,309.00	
Convention .....	608.00	
Section Funds Returned to Treasury .....	237.96	2,154.96
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>\$3,236.03</b>

## Expenditures:

A. L. A. Dues .....	\$ 25.00	
Bulletin Subsidy .....	500.00	
Convention .....	703.18	
General Operating Expenses .....	204.39	
President's Expense .....	75.00	
✓ Constitution and By-Laws Committee .....	13.28	
✓ Indexing Louisiana Magazines Committee .....	6.90	
✓ Literary Award Committee .....	10.00	
✓ Membership Committee .....	11.65	
✓ Modisette Award Committee .....	46.79	
✓ Public Relations Committee .....	58.68	
✓ Recruiting Committee .....	70.03	
Sections .....	38.50	
Bank Charges .....	6.12	\$1,769.52

Balance January 1, 1952..... \$1,466.51

## Assets:

Balance in Checking Account		
General .....	\$1,064.30	
Sections .....	402.21	\$1,466.51
<b>L. L. A. Publication Fund .....</b>		<b>155.41</b>
Sustaining Account .....		230.71
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>\$1,852.63</b>

Liabilities: ..... 00.00

Total Assets January 1, 1952..... \$1,852.63

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# People and Places

*Edited by*

MATTIE SUE MOUNCE, *Assistant Reference Librarian*  
Louisiana State Library

The *L.S.U. Library* has several new staff members. *Corinne W. Green*, who received both her Ph.D. and library science degrees from the *University of North Carolina*, is a new member of the reference department staff. In addition to her library duties, Dr. Green teaches a class in mythology. *Mrs. Mary C. Colmer* and *Mrs. Mary J. Constabaris*, both of whom received their library science degrees from the L.S.U. Library School, are now in the cataloging department. Another L.S.U. graduate of 1951 is *Edith Marie Sims*, who is in charge of the newspaper room at L.S.U. In the circulation department are *Richelieu Orr, Peabody*, 1951, and *Claude E. Petrie, Jr., North Carolina*, 1951. *Mrs. Marguerite M. Hanchey* of the agriculture-biology library of L.S.U. is on leave of absence for the 1951-52 session while her husband does work on his Ph.D. at *Ohio State University*. Recent visitors to the L.S.U. Library were *Alfred Morton Githins*, library architect; *Edmund Low*, librarian of *Oklahoma A. & M. College*; and *Dr. William Dix*, librarian of the *Rice Institute at Houston*.

The new reference librarian of the *L.S.U. Law Library* is *Mrs. Norma Mayeux Duncan*. *Mrs. Duncan*, who holds an LL.B. degree from the L.S.U. Law School, was formerly research assistant for the *Louisiana State Law Institute*. *Kate Wallach*, librarian of the L.S.U. Law School, attended the annual meeting of the *American Association of Law Schools* in *Denver*, December 28-30. *Miss Wallach* is a member of the *Committee for Educational Films* and of the *Joint Committee of American Law Library Association* and the *American Association of Law Schools*.

*Lois Skinner*, librarian of the *Ethyl Cor-*

*poration in Baton Rouge*, was heard recently on the radio program, "Headlines in Chemistry" over station WLSU. The program is sponsored by the *Baton Rouge* section of the *American Chemical Society*.

*Mrs. Kay Cooley*, formerly assistant librarian of the *St. Tammany Parish Library, Covington*, is now assistant librarian of the *Ouachita Parish Public Library, Monroe*.

The staff members of the *Shreve Memorial Library, Shreveport*, were invited to assist in the selection of "Notable Books of 1951." Their selections have been sent in to the chairman of the A.L.A. Committee, and they will have the opportunity of voting on the complete list when it is compiled.

Special Christmas story hours were held in the *Harrisonburg* and *Jonesville Branches* of the *Catahoula Parish Library*. *Mrs. Smith Oden*, staff member in the headquarters branch, read the stories in *Harrisonburg*, while *Mrs. Ila McGuyer*, first grade teacher from *Block Grammar School*, did the narration at the *Jonesville Branch*.

*Mrs. J. B. Chesson* has returned to the *Calcasieu Parish Library* after a year's leave of absence. She is now bookmobile librarian. *Mrs. George Seymour*, who was previously with the *New Orleans Public Library*, is the assistant on the bookmobile at *Calcasieu*. *Calcasieu Parish Library* now has four trained librarians, reports librarian *Emily Spencer*. With the new librarians at the *Lake Charles Public Library*, *McNeese*, and the two high schools, there are ten trained librarians working in the city of *Lake Charles*. According to *Miss Spencer*, the addition of a film service to the *Calcasieu Parish Library* has been quite successful. This service has attracted many friends to the library, and the

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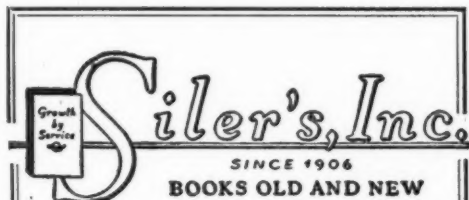
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projector and films are in almost constant use, Miss Spencer reports.

New staff members at the *East Baton Rouge Parish Library* include Mrs. Mike Flanakin, acting children's librarian while Mrs. C. J. St. Julien is on leave of absence; Mrs. W. D. Ramsey; and Mrs. Evan Wright, library assistant on the bookmobile. M. E. Byrd is the new accountant at East Baton Rouge.

Mary Louise Giraud, formerly a field worker at the *Arkansas Library Commission*, is now librarian of the recently-opened *Texas Library Demonstration* with headquarters in *St. Joseph*. Betty Dance is assistant at *Texas*.

Mrs. Marcia Williams Perkins is the new librarian of the *Livingston Parish Library*. Mrs. Perkins came to Livingston Parish from *Springfield, Missouri*, where she was reference librarian in the public library.

Recent visitors to the *Louisiana State Library* were Rita Wulfsing from *Bonn, Germany*; Phyllis Corner of the *New South Wales Public Library*; Elizabeth Poppelbaum, a branch librarian in the *Public Library* in *Munich, Germany*; and Helen Ferris (Mrs. Albert B. Tibbets), editor of the *Junior Literary Guild*, and her husband, who is a member of the Board of the *Junior Literary Guild*. These people also visited several of the parish libraries while they were in the state.

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## LLA Convention

The annual convention of the *Louisiana Library Association* will be held from 2 p.m. Thursday, March 13, until noon Saturday, March 15, in Shreveport. Headquarters will be the Washington-Youree Hotel, and registration opens at 10:00 a.m. "The American Heritage" will be the theme of the meeting. Featured speakers will be Miss Margaret Girdner, Director, Bureau of Texts and Libraries, San Francisco Unified School District, and Doris Gates, author of children's books and editor of the Ginn readers. Special guests will be Mr. Greig Aspnes, President of the *Special Libraries Association*, and Mr. Edmon Low, President of the *Southwestern Library Association*. It is expected

that representatives of the *American Library Association* will be in attendance.

Sectional meetings are tentatively scheduled for Friday morning, with the Book Dinner that night.

May we ask your cooperation in mailing your membership blanks in promptly, to speed the work of the Registration Committee? Membership for 1952 is now payable, and checks should be mailed to Miss Elizabeth Builteman, Delhi High School, Delhi, Louisiana. Dues are \$2.00 for individuals and \$5.00 for contributing membership, and you are requested to pay now in order to be included in the annual list of members to be published in the *Bulletin*.

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